

Appl. No. 09/447,378
Amdt. Dated October 1, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0014
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-39 were pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 6-9, 12-14, 18, 21-23 and 26-38 are being cancelled. In addition, Fig. 3 of the Drawing is being corrected so as to correctly correspond with Fig. 1 which Fig. 3 is a sectional view of. No new matter is involved.

In Paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 10, 15-17, 19 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). In Paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action, claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,097,466 of Koma. In Paragraph 5 which begins at the bottom of page 6 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koma '466. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the exception of claim 25, the other claims are rejected on AAPA, either taken alone or in combination with Koma '466. Thus, the AAPA is the principal prior art relied upon in rejecting almost all of the claims. Yet, as evidenced by the statements made in the Office Action, the AAPA is being misinterpreted, possibly due to a slight error in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

More particularly, the statements in the Office Action refer to Fig. 3 as showing an orientation control window 36 and a drain line 50 having a light-blocking capability partially overlapping each other. However, and as described in detail in the specification, Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line D-D of Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 1, the left one of the two drain lines 50 does not overlap the orientation control window. However, in preparing Fig. 3, again a cross-sectional view of Fig. 1 taken along the line D-D of Fig. 1, the left hand one of the drain lines

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positioned in Fig. 3. Thus, the showing of the left hand one of the drain lines 50 in Fig. 3 is in error and does not correspond to Fig. 1 which correctly shows the position of the left hand drain line 50.

To clarify the location of the left hand one of the drain lines 50 in Fig. 3, Applicant is amending Fig. 3 of the drawings. Attached are a replacement sheet together with an annotated sheet showing the change being made to Fig. 3. Such change is appropriate, so that Fig. 3 can properly correspond to Fig. 1 from which it is taken. Approval of this change is respectfully requested.

Therefore, the statement in the Office Action that the AAPA shows an orientation control window 36 and a drain line 50 having a light-blocking capability partially overlapping each other is in error. The AAPA is correctly shown in Fig. 1 and is now correctly shown in Fig. 3 as amended. Amended Fig. 3 now properly corresponds to Fig. 1 from which it is taken. Thus, there is no description in the "related art" section of the Application showing that an orientation divider and a light-blocking film in a pixel region overlap.

Independent claims 1 and 15 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the AAPA as corrected herein. In the case of claim 1, for example, such claim defines a liquid crystal display device which includes an orientation divider and a light-shielding film. The light-shielding film is defined as being "disposed to overlap with boundaries of the orientation directions of the liquid crystal formed by the orientation divider, the light-shielding film overlapping the orientation divider in the region other than the space region along an extension direction of the orientation divider". Similar comments apply to independent claim 15 which defines a liquid crystal display device in terms of an orientation divider and a light-

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claims 1 and 15, as explained above. Therefore, claims 1 and 15 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

Claims 2-5 and 10 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and contain all of the limitations thereof so as to also clearly distinguish patentably over the art. Similarly, claims 16, 17 and 19 depend from and contain all of the limitations of claim 15, so as to also distinguish patentably over the art.

Similar comments apply to claims 11, 20 and 25 which are rejected on AAPA with Koma '466, and on Koma '466 alone. Koma is said to disclose that the alignment control window, as an orientation divider, has a width different from the drain line so that the drain signal line functions as a light-shielding film. However, the attempted combination of Koma does not cure the failure of AAPA to show or suggest the basic concept in accordance with the invention of an orientation divider and a light-blocking film in a pixel region overlap. Claim 11 defines a liquid crystal display device which includes an orientation divider and a light-shielding film disposed to overlap with boundaries of the orientation directions of the liquid crystal formed by the orientation divider. The combination of claim 11 further defines the orientation divider as having a width different from that of the light-shielding film. Similar comments apply to claims 20 and 25.

At Paragraph 6 on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 24 and 39 are allowed. A Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter follows in Paragraph 7 which begins on page 7 of the Office Action.

In conclusion, claims 1-5, 10, 11, 15-17, 19, 20 and 25 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art, in addition to claims 24 and 39. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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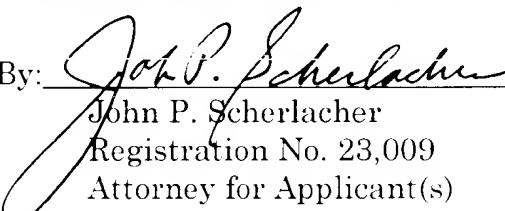
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Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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